

Alicante

Valencian Community · Spain

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Alicante is a port city on Spain's Costa Blanca. It has a castle on a hill, a palm-lined seafront and a compact old town. The city is easy to walk, and the beach is close to the centre.

It suits a relaxed trip of two to four nights. Visitors come for sun, sea, tapas and rice dishes. Many also use Alicante as a base for trips along the coast. The city is lively at night, and busiest in summer.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are warm and pleasant for sightseeing. Summer is hot and best for the beach, but the middle of the day is tiring. Winter is mild and sunny, though some days are cool and wet.

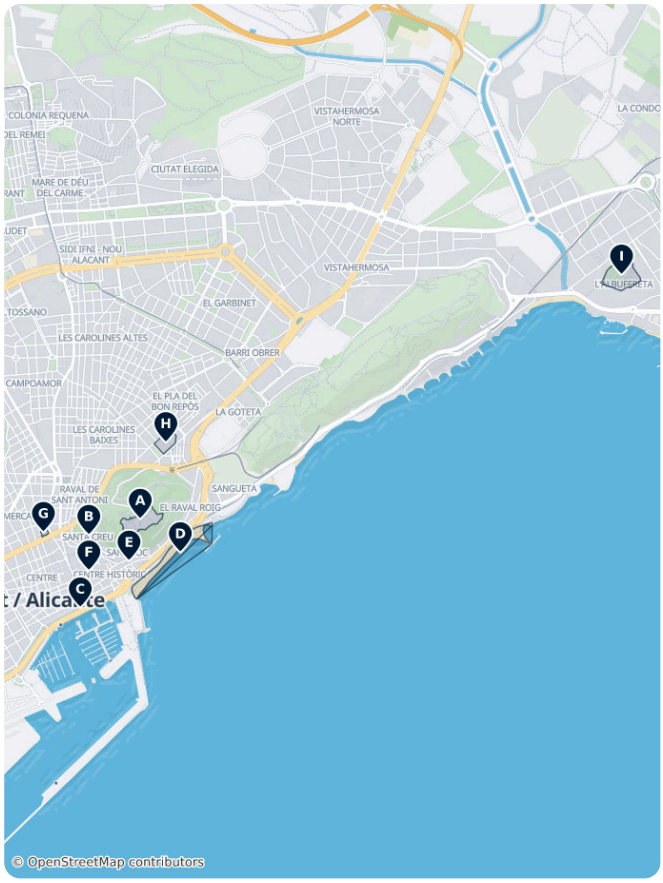
The biggest event is the **Hogueras de San Juan**, in the days before 24 June. Streets fill with large satirical sculptures, and there are parades, loud daytime fireworks and night fireworks. The sculptures burn on the night of 24 June. Book a room well ahead if you plan to come.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	8° / 4°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 21° Feels like 13°	8° / 4°	Dry air
March	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 23°	10° / 6°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	12° / 9°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	15° / 12°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for the beach	27° / 32°	20° / 16°	22 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	30° / 33°	22° / 20°	26 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for watersports	30° / 34°	23° / 20°	22 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for watersports	27° / 31°	20° / 17°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28°	17° / 13°	Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	12° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Castell de Santa Bàrbara stands on a hill 166 m above the sea and gives the best view of the city. Reach it by the lift opposite the beach, by shuttle bus, or on foot.
- B Barrio Santa Cruz is the old quarter below the castle. Its narrow, steep streets have small white and colourful houses with flowers.
- C Paseo de la Explanada de España is the palm-lined seafront promenade, paved with a wave pattern of marble tiles. It is the traditional place for an evening walk.
- D El Postiguet Beach is the city beach, a short walk from the old town. It is the easiest place for a swim.
- E Basílica de Santa María is the oldest active church in the city. It stands in the old town, near the town hall.
- F Concatedral de San Nicolás de Bari is the city's co-cathedral, a short walk from the town hall.
- G Alicante Central Market is a market hall with fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables. It is a good place to see local food.
- H MARQ - Museo Arqueológico de Alicante covers the history of the region from prehistory to the modern age. It won the European Museum of the Year award in 2004.
- I Ciudad Ibero Romana de Lucentum is the ruin of an Iberian and Roman town on the north side of the city. It is a quiet stop for history lovers.

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What to experience

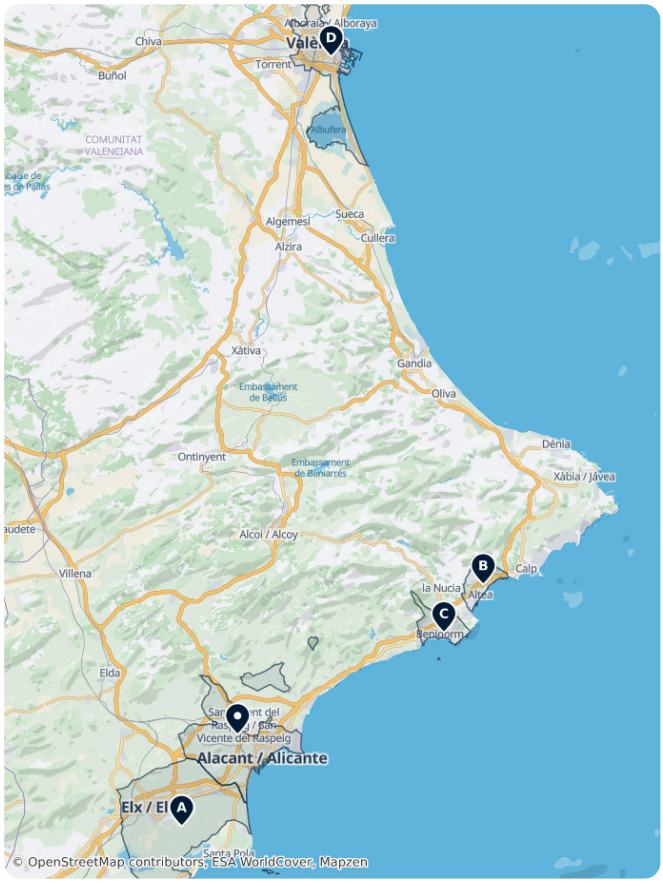
Alicante is known for its festivals. These are the ones worth timing a trip around.

- **Hogueras de San Juan**: Join the street life in late June, with fireworks, parades and the burning of large sculptures on 24 June.
- **Semana Santa**: In spring, processions with religious statues pass through the streets at night.
- **Romería de la Santa Faz**: In spring, locals walk about 8 km to the Santa Faz monastery.
- **Moros y Cristianos**: Parades with costumes and staged battles take place in several neighbourhoods. Dates vary.

Day trips

Alicante is a good base for short trips by train, tram, bus or boat. Times below are one way.

- Ⓐ Elche: about 30 minutes by train or bus. It is famous for its large palm grove, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Tabarca island**: about 1 hour by boat from the port. It is a small walled island with clear water, a marine reserve and fish restaurants. Boats run more often in summer.
- Ⓑ Altea: about 1 hour 15 minutes by bus. The tram needs a change at Benidorm and takes longer. It is a white hillside town with a blue-domed church and a pebble beach.
- Ⓒ Benidorm: about 1 hour by bus, 1 hour 10 minutes by tram. It is known for its high-rise skyline, long beaches and nightlife.
- Ⓓ Valencia: about 2 hours by train. It is a large city with a historic centre and modern architecture.



Where to explore

Other destinations near Alicante:

- **Along the coast**: Altea, Benidorm and Denia lie to the north. Torrevieja lies to the south.
- **Inland and south**: Elche and Orihuela are close to the city.
- **Further away**: Valencia and Xàtiva are good for a longer trip north.

Getting there

- **By air**: Alicante-Elche airport (ALC) is about 9 km southwest of the centre. Bus line C6 runs to the centre every 15 minutes in the day and costs about 5 €. Buy the ticket on the bus. A taxi is faster and costs more.
- **By train**: Trains arrive at Alicante Terminal station, near the centre. High-speed AVE trains reach Madrid in about 2 hours 30 minutes. There are also direct trains to Valencia and Barcelona. Book on Renfe.
- **By bus**: The long-distance bus station is near the port. Coaches run to other cities in Spain and to towns along the coast.
- **By sea**: The port has ferries to Algeria and boats to Tabarca island, and cruise ships call here.

For visitor information, see the Alicante tourism office.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town, the seafront and the market are all within walking distance. Streets near the castle are steep.
- **Buses**: Urban buses cover the city. Buy a single ticket from the driver and bring small change. A shuttle bus goes to the castle from Plaza Puerta del Mar.
- **Tram**: The TRAM links the city with the coast. It serves El Campello, Benidorm and Dénia, and it stops near the MARQ museum. Details are on the TRAM Alicante site.
- **Taxis**: There are ranks at the train station, the bus station and the Explanada.
- **Cycling**: The centre is flat, and cycling is practical along the seafront.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town, seafront and market are close together. Streets near the castle are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The centre and seafront are flat, but bike lanes are not everywhere.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. The centre is compact and the old town has pedestrian streets. A car is useful for visiting inland villages and small coves.
- **Parking**: Street parking in the centre is limited and often paid. Underground car parks are easier. Parking at the castle is limited. The lift or shuttle bus is easier.

Food & drink

Rice is the main local food. Look for *arroz a banda* (rice cooked in fish stock) and other rice dishes at lunch. Dishes with fresh fish and seafood are common. On Tabarca island, the local dish is *caldero*, a fish and rice meal. Turrón, a sweet nougat, is the traditional local dessert.

Eating areas matter more than single restaurants. Tapas bars cluster around the old town and the streets near the town hall. Alicante Central Market is the best place to see local produce. Lunch is the main meal, and many places serve a set lunch menu on weekdays. Dinner starts late.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Churros · Churros con Chocolate
Fried dough sticks served with a thick, dark hot chocolate for dipping — a classic Spanish breakfast or late-night snack.

LUNCH

Paella Valenciana
A saffron-scented rice dish cooked in a wide, shallow pan. The traditional Valencian version uses chicken, rabbit, and green beans — best eaten at midday.

Gazpacho
A cold, blended soup of raw tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and vinegar, originally from Andalusia. Served as a drink or a starter, especially in summer.

DINNER

Pulpo a la Gallega
Boiled octopus sliced onto a wooden board and dressed with olive oil, coarse salt, and smoked paprika — a signature dish of Galicia.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Jamón Ibérico
Dry-cured ham from acorn-fed Iberian pigs, sliced paper-thin and eaten on its own or with bread. The finest grade, jamón ibérico de bellota, is one of Spain's most prized products.

Tortilla Española
A thick potato and egg omelette, served warm or at room temperature, found in virtually every bar in Spain. Often eaten as a tapa or a quick meal.

Patatas Bravas
Fried potato chunks served with a spicy tomato sauce or aioli — one of the most common tapas across the country.

Pintxos
Small snacks anchored to slices of bread with a toothpick, the Basque Country's answer to tapas. Found in bar counters across San Sebastián and Bilbao, often with elaborate toppings.

Croquetas
Crispy breaded cylinders with a creamy béchamel filling, typically made with jamón, bacalà (salt cod), or mushrooms.

DRINKS

Rioja Wine · Vino de Rioja

Spain's best-known wine region produces full-bodied reds from Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak. The crianza, reserva, and gran reserva labels indicate increasing age and complexity.

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Safety & health

Alicante is a safe city for visitors. The main risk is petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag theft. Be careful on crowded beaches, in busy streets and at festivals. Do not leave valuables in a parked car.

In summer, drink water often and avoid the midday sun. The sea can have strong currents on windy days, so follow beach flags.

History

People have lived here for thousands of years. Ciudad Ibero Romana de Lucentum shows the Iberian and Roman town of Lucentum.

The Moors ruled the area for centuries, and Christian kings took it in the 13th century. Castell de Santa Bàrbara grew over time, and its three levels show different periods. The top level has the oldest parts. The lowest level dates from the 18th century.

Alicante was a major Republican port in the Spanish Civil War. It was one of the last cities to fall to Franco's forces, on 1 April 1939.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Spain at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

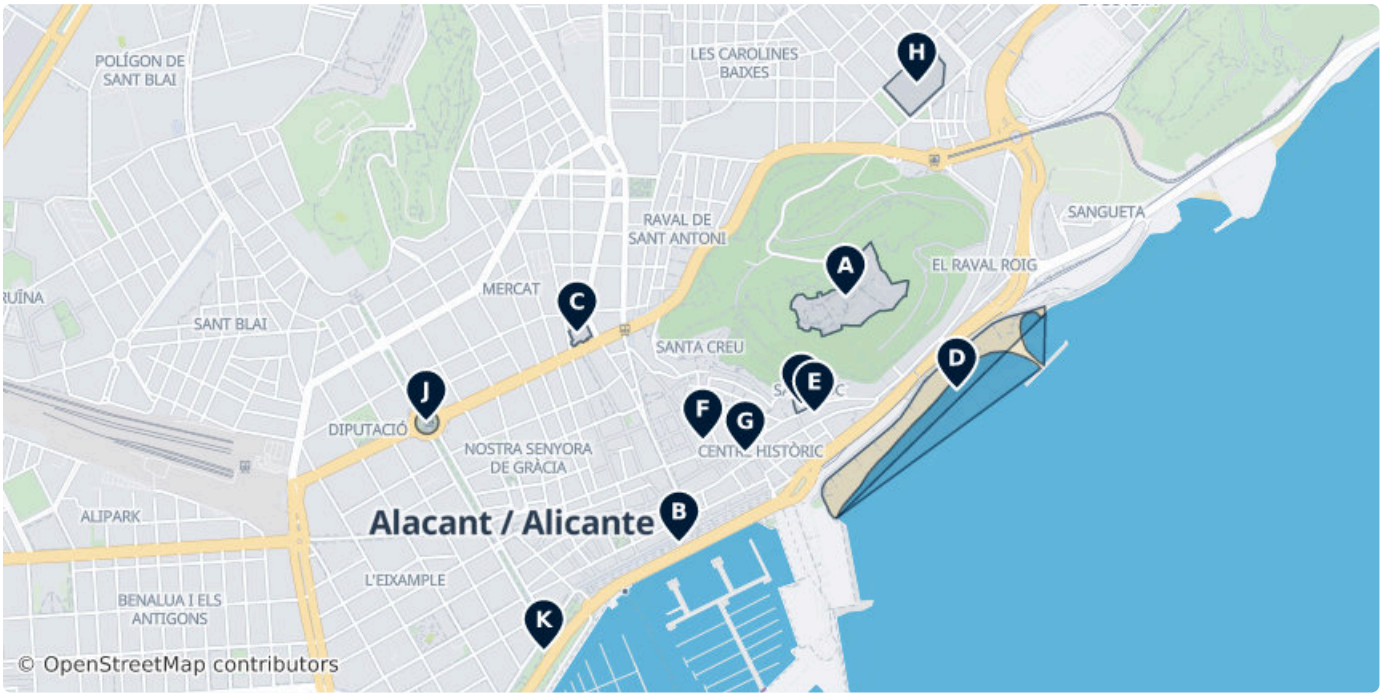
Spanish

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Alicante Essentials

Explore Alicante's historical landmarks, from the 9th-century Castle of Santa Bárbara on Mount Benacantil to the Gothic Basilica of Santa María, built over a former mosque. The city's architectural heritage includes the 18th-century Baroque Town Hall and the early 20th-century Central Market. Walk the mosaic-tiled Explanada de España or visit the Archaeological Museum (MARQ) for insights into local history. Modern culture is represented by the Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA), while the city's oldest park and central squares showcase its 19th and 20th-century urban evolution.





A Castle of Santa Bárbara

Located on Mount Benacantil, the castle that once served as a prison watches over the city of Alicante and offers spectacular views.

Plaza del Cuartel, 03002 Alicante, Spain
(38.34891, -0.47830)

Mo–Su 10:00–20:00

castillodesantabarbara.com/index_en.ht..., +34 965 927 715



B Explanada de España

Running parallel to the port of Alicante, this "esplanade" is a popular promenade lined with hundreds of palm trees.

12 Calle de l'Explanada de España, Alicante 03001, Spain
(38.34320, -0.48322)



C Central Market

This basilica-like building is home to a central food market ever since it was built in the early 20th century.

Avinguda Alfons el Savi, Alicante (38.34806, -0.48624)

Mo–Fr	07:00–14:30
Sa	07:00–15:00

mercadosalicante.com/mercado-centra... , +34 965 14 08 41



D El Postiguet Beach

Situated near the heart of the city, El Postiguet is one of the most popular beaches in the area.

5 Paseo de Gómiz, 03002, Spain (38.34676, -0.47501)



E Santa María Church, Alicante

This is the oldest active church in Alicante, built on the site of a former mosque.

Plaza de Santa María 3, 03002 Alicante, Spain (38.34621, -0.47922)

+34 965 216 026



F San Nicolás de Bari Procathedral

San Nicolás de Bari is one of the most important churches in Alicante, located in the historical district of the city.

Plaza del Abad Penalva 2, 03002 Alicante, Spain (38.34557, -0.48252)

concatedralalicante.com, +34 965212662



G Town Hall of Alicante City

Built in the 18th century, this town hall will amaze you with its grand architecture.

1 Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Alicante 03002, Spain
(38.34529, -0.48126)

alicante.es/es



H Archaeological Museum of Alicante

The Archaeological Museum of Alicante is an archaeological museum in Alicante, Spain.

Pza. Doctor Gómez Ulla, s/n, 03013 Alicante, Spain
(38.35384, -0.47619)

marqalicante.com, +34 965 149 000

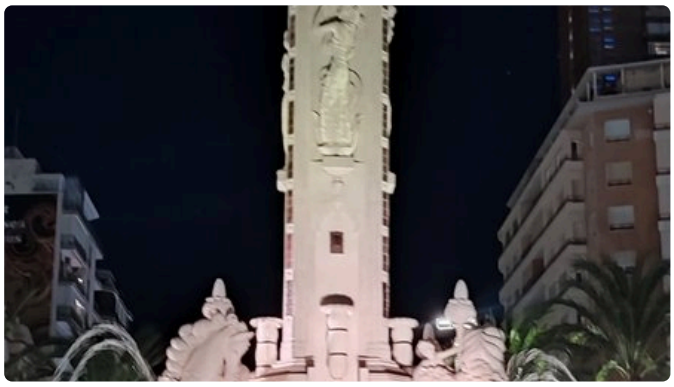


I Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art

Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art is a municipal museum in Alicante, Spain. It exhibits 20th-century and contemporary art.

5 Calle de Barceló, Alicante 03002, Spain
(38.34639, -0.47960)

maca-alicante.es



J Plaça dels Estels

Central square featuring a monumental 1930s fountain by sculptor Daniel Bañuls. It serves as the primary site for the Mascletà firework displays during the annual Bonfires of Saint John festival.

18 Plaça Luceros, Alicante 03004, Spain
(38.34601, -0.49070)



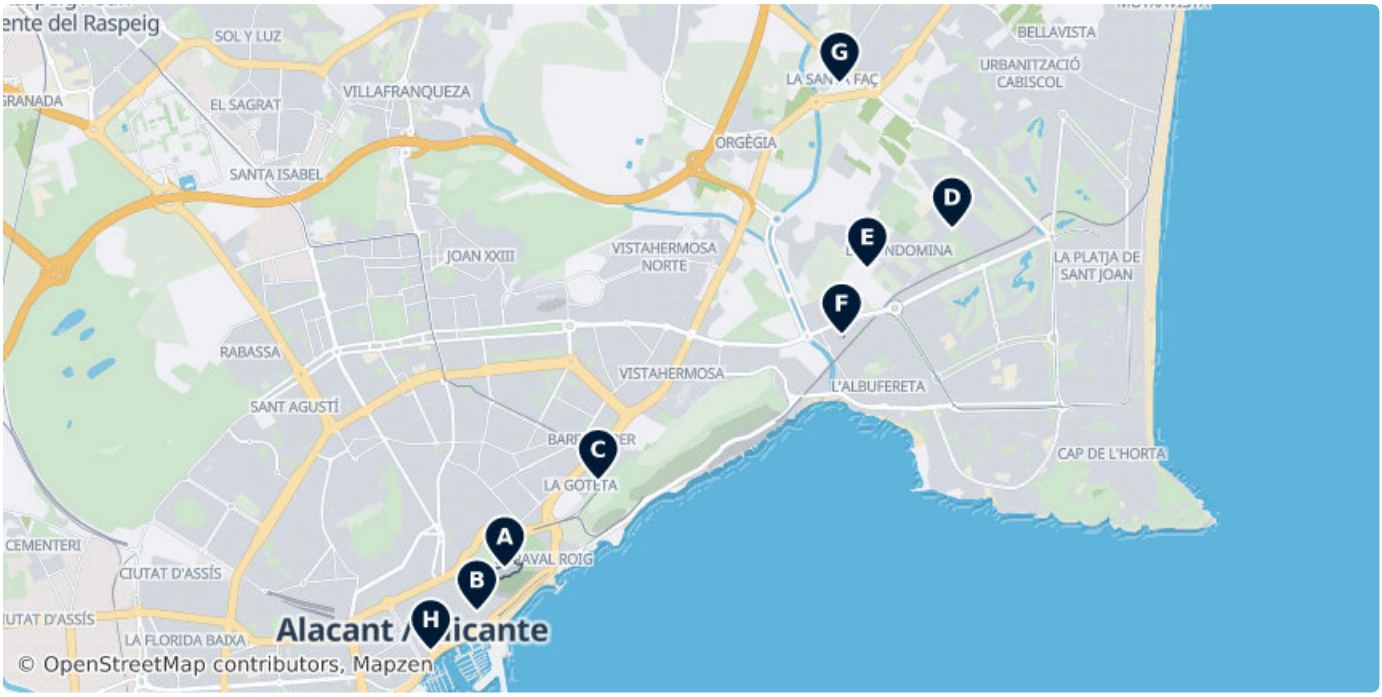
Parque de Canalejas

The city's oldest park, established in 1886, is characterized by its massive, century-old Ficus trees with sprawling canopies and stone sculptures of lions and dogs.

5 Avenida del Doctor Ramón y Cajal, Alicante 03003, Spain
(38.34069, -0.48722)

Historic Landmarks of Alicante

Alicante's history is defined by its strategic coastal position, visible in the 9th-century Castle of Santa Bárbara on Mount Benacantil and the 18th-century Baroque Town Hall. A unique feature of the region is the Huerta de Alicante defensive network, a series of 16th and 17th-century watchtowers like Torre El Ciprés and Torre de Santa Faz built to protect against pirate raids. The city also preserves sites of modern historical significance, including memorials from the Spanish Civil War.





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Plaza del Cuartel, 03002 Alicante, Spain
(38.34891, -0.47830)

Mo–Su 10:00–20:00

castillodesantabarbara.com/index_en.ht..., +34 965 927 715



B Town Hall of Alicante City

Built in the 18th century, this town hall will amaze you with its grand architecture.

1 Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Alicante 03002, Spain
(38.34529, -0.48126)

alicante.es/es



C Placa en recuerdo de las victimas del campo de concentracion de Los Almendros

A memorial plaque marking the site of a concentration camp used for military and civilian prisoners at the conclusion of the Spanish Civil War in 1939.

(Unnamed Road), Alicante 03016, Spain
(38.35617, -0.46838)

D Torre del Xiprer

A coastal watchtower located near San Juan Beach, originally built as part of a 16th-century defensive network to protect local farmlands from pirate attacks.

84 Avenida del Arquitecto Félix Candela, Urbanización Carolina IV 03540, Spain (38.37717, -0.43075)

E Torre Conde

One of the historic watchtowers of the Huerta de Alicante, this stone structure served as a defensive lookout to signal the approach of Barbary pirates.

(Unnamed Road), Urbanización Carolina IV 03016, Spain
(38.37386, -0.43976)

F Torre de las Águilas

A defensive construction situated north of the city center, forming part of the historic line of coastal fortifications guarding the Alicante region.

7 Calle de Virgilio, Urbanización Carolina IV 03016, Spain
(38.36833, -0.44249)

G Torre de la Santa Faç

A coastal defense tower located in the Santa Faz area, designed to protect the nearby monastery and surrounding agricultural lands from maritime threats.

4 Calle de Alberola Canterac, Santa Faz 03016, Spain
(38.38927, -0.44271)



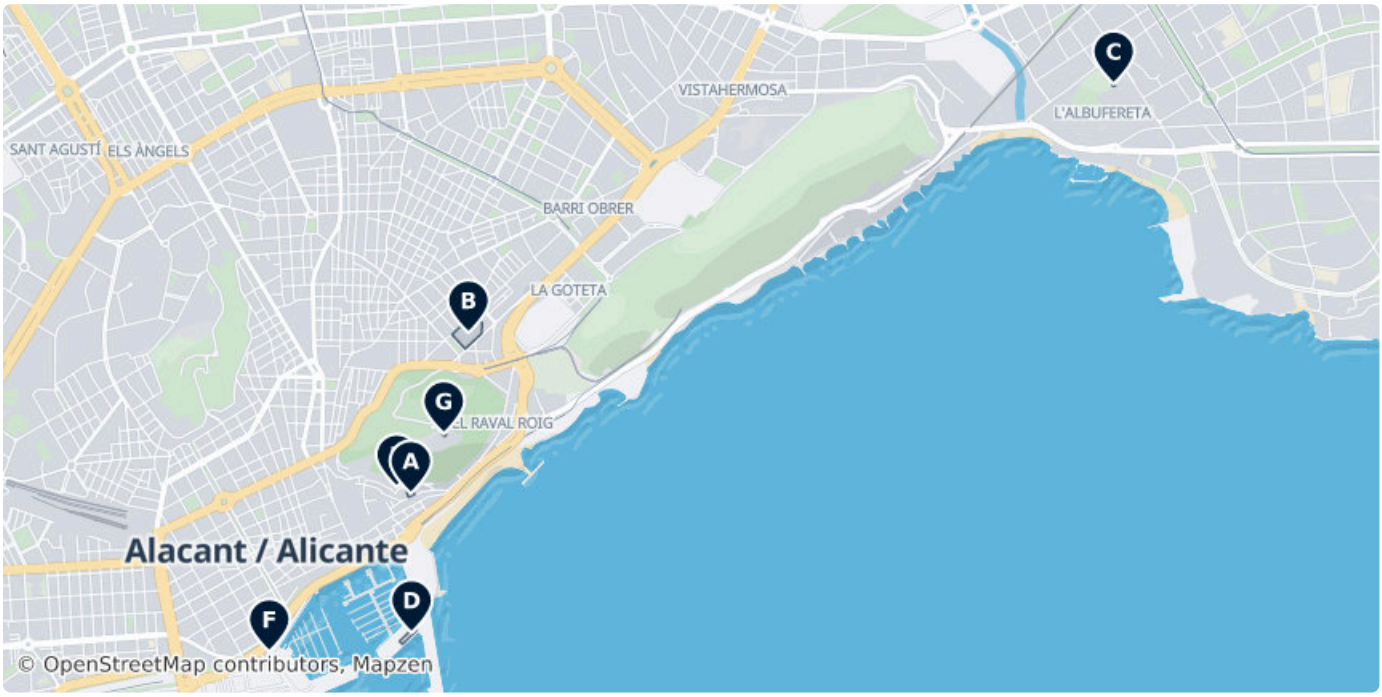
H Monumento a José Canalejas

A commemorative statue dedicated to José Canalejas, a prominent Spanish politician and former Prime Minister, located at the park that bears his name.

1 Plaza de las Canalejas, Alicante 03001, Spain
(38.34198, -0.48617)

Museums of Alicante

Alicante's museum scene spans from antiquity to modern art. The MARQ Archaeological Museum offers award-winning displays of local history, while Lucentum preserves the ruins of a Roman city. MACA houses 20th-century masterpieces in a 17th-century granary. Unique specialized sites include the Volvo Ocean Race Museum, documenting world-class sailing, and the Museo del Agua, set within 19th-century cisterns carved into Mount Benacantil. The MUSA, located within Santa Barbara Castle, explores the city's evolution, and the Lonja del Pescado serves as a cultural space in a former fish market.





A Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art

Alicante Museum of Contemporary Art is a municipal museum in Alicante, Spain. It exhibits 20th-century and contemporary art.

5 Calle de Barceló, Alicante 03002, Spain (38.34639, -0.47960)

maca-alicante.es



B Archaeological Museum of Alicante

The Archaeological Museum of Alicante is an archaeological museum in Alicante, Spain.

Pza. Doctor Gómez Ulla, s/n, 03013 Alicante, Spain (38.35384, -0.47619)

marqalicante.com, +34 965 149 000

C Lucentum

Archaeological site featuring the remains of the Roman city of Lucentum. It includes 4th-century BC defensive walls, urban streets, and two sets of public thermal baths, including the Baths of Popilio.

Urbanización Carolina IV 03016, Spain (38.36540, -0.43797)



D The Ocean Race Museo

Interactive museum dedicated to the history and technology of the round-the-world sailing race. Exhibits cover maritime navigation, environmental sustainability, and the physical challenges faced by crews during the competition.

Muelle de Levante 10, 03001 Alicante (38.33993, -0.47955)

Mo–Fr 10:00–16:00

theoceanrace.com



E Museo del Agua - Los Pozos de Garrigós

Located in the Old Quarter, this museum occupies 19th-century cisterns carved into the rock of Mount Benacantil. It illustrates the history of Alicante's water supply and features the massive Los Pozos de Garrigós wells.

3 Calle de Remigio Sebastiá, Alicante 03002, Spain (38.34669, -0.48044)

F Museo de la Lonja del Pescado

A former fish market built in the early 20th century, this North African-inspired building now serves as a municipal exhibition space for contemporary art and cultural events along the harbor front.

22 Paseo del Almirante Julio Guillén Tato, Alicante 03003, Spain (38.33905, -0.48799)

MUSA Museo de Alicante

Located within Santa Barbara Castle, this museum details the history of Alicante through ten exhibition rooms featuring archaeological finds, historical documents, and displays on the city's cultural traditions.

Plaza del Cuartel, Alicante 03002, Spain
(38.34917, -0.47765)

Mo–Su	10:00–14:30, 16:00–20:00

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